

8.0 SPONSORSHIP

TSP service users include Federal, state, local, and foreign governments, and private industry entities who are supported by telecommunication services for which TSP assignments have been requested or assigned. There is, however, one distinction in access to the TSP System between Federal government TSP service users and other TSP service users: a request for a TSP assignment originating outside the Federal government must have a Federal sponsor.

The purpose of sponsorship is to ensure that an authorized Federal official confirms that the requirement merits a priority assignment. This chapter discusses the responsibilities of a Federal agency as a sponsor and the options available to a non-Federal government user for obtaining a Federal sponsor.

8.1 DESIGNATION OF FEDERAL SPONSORS

Any Federal agency may be requested to function as a sponsor for TSP assignment requests from non-Federal government service users. However, certain Federal agencies are responsible for sponsoring specific non-Federal requests. Federal agencies should refer to Executive Order (EO) 12656, Assignments of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities, as a guide for identifying which requests they may wish to consider sponsoring. EO 12656 identifies the emergency preparedness and planning responsibilities that Federal agencies would perform in a national security emergency. (EO 12656 is contained in Appendix C.)

The Department of State (DOS) is normally tasked with sponsoring requests for priority assignments from foreign governments. Certain foreign government requests will be processed through the Department of Defense (DoD) in performance of its National Allied Long Lines Agency function. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is specifically tasked with sponsoring requests from state and local governments.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is identified as the principal sponsor for TSP assignment requests from public and private interstate power utilities. DOE may also sponsor TSP assignment requests from public and private intrastate power utilities.

Federal agencies are required to designate the official(s) within their agency who is authorized to sponsor requests for TSP assignments from non-Federal government service users.

Prior to or concurrently with sponsoring their first TSP request, sponsoring official(s) will be identified in writing to the TSP Program Office. (See paragraph 7.7, Identification of Sponsoring Official(s).)

8.2 FEDERAL SPONSORS' INTERACTION WITH NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE USERS

Each Federal agency that agrees to be a sponsor must develop internal procedures to accommodate their sponsorship responsibilities under both normal and emergency circumstances. While specific implementation details are unique to each agency, sponsors are encouraged to act as a focal point for all communication between their sponsored entities and the TSP Program Office. Sponsors are also encouraged to maintain records of sponsored service requests and subsequent dispositions.

8.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary role of a sponsor is to affirm whether or not a TSP request from a non-Federal government service user meets the NSEP requirements, is a valid TSP candidate, and the requested priority level assignment is appropriate. Although the priority level is assigned by the TSP Program Office, the sponsor brings specific knowledge to bear on the decision. The TSP Program Office can be expected to concur with the sponsor's recommendation, given that the provisions of this manual have been followed.

A sponsoring agency does not incur financial liability for the sponsored service. The sponsored service user requiring the service is responsible for having funds allocated to pay any service costs related to the TSP service. The sponsor should not interfere with the normal contractual relationship between the sponsored service user and the service vendor; that is, the sponsor normally does not interact with the service vendor regarding the sponsored service.

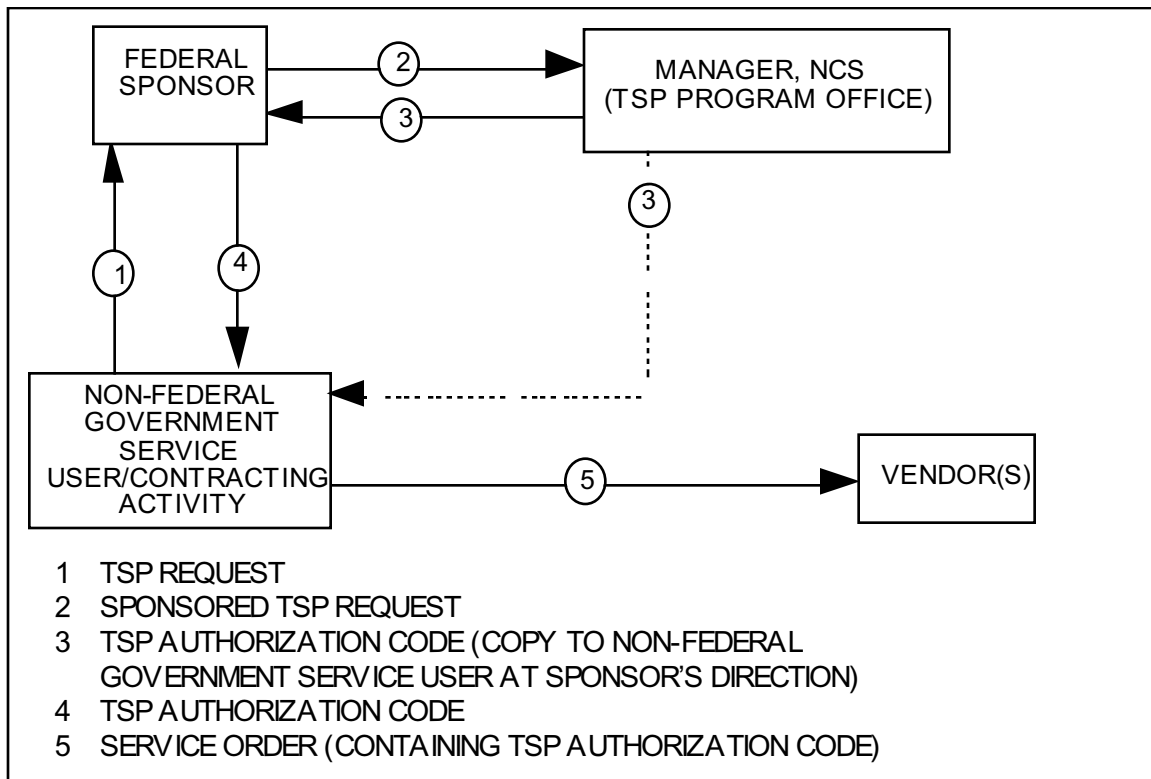
Each Federal agency determines its own procedures to comply with sponsorship responsibilities. However, Federal sponsors should keep their processing time for TSP requests to two working days or less. The general sponsorship process for TSP requests is described below and presented in figure 8-1:

- The service user, using EO 12656 as a guide, determines which Federal agency to approach for sponsorship of a TSP Request
- The service user submits a TSP Request For Service Users (SF 315) to a sponsor according to procedures determined by that sponsor
- The sponsor reviews and decides whether to sponsor the request

- If the sponsor decides not to sponsor or denies the request, the sponsor returns the TSP Request to the service user point-of-contact along with the reason for their refusal.
- If the sponsor accepts the request, the sponsor forwards it to the TSP Program Office, using the TSP Request (SF 315), with a recommended disposition. (This recommendation will be based on the process for determining a priority level as described in chapter 6.0.)
- After taking action on a TSP request, the TSP Program Office will notify the sponsor. At the sponsor's direction, the TSP Program Office will also notify the sponsored service user of that action.

NOTE: An agency's routing instructions will apply to correspondence for all services sponsored by that agency. The TSP Program Office will not route information directly to a foreign government user.

Figure 8-1

SPONSORING A TSP REQUEST

The sponsor may appeal any priority assignment or other priority action regarding sponsored services within 30 days of notification by the TSP Program Office. The sponsor may appeal priority actions either on their own initiative or at the request of the non-Federal government service user. The sponsor will first appeal to the TSP Program Office. If the sponsor is not satisfied with the TSP Program Office's decision, the appeal may be escalated to the Manager, NCS. If necessary, the sponsor may then appeal directly to the FCC.

Non-Federal government service users will appeal priority actions through their sponsor. If still dissatisfied after appealing to the TSP Program Office and the Manager, NCS through their sponsor, a non-Federal government service user may then appeal directly to the FCC. The priority action appeal process is discussed in detail in chapter 9.0.

NOTE: A foreign government service user may not appeal directly to the FCC.

Sponsors are required to cooperate with the TSP Program Office during audits and for reconciliation and revalidation of any services they sponsor. The reconciliation and revalidation processes are described in paragraphs 7.4 and 7.5; audits are discussed in paragraph 10.4. Additionally, sponsors are required to receive and forward service order reports (see paragraph 7.1) and changes in TSP service information (see paragraph 7.2) to the TSP Program Office.

8.4 SPONSORING REQUESTS FOR INVOCATION OF NSEP TREATMENT

Each Federal agency should determine their own procedures for sponsoring a request for provisioning priority, keeping in mind, however, that requests for Emergency provisioning should be acted on immediately. (Invocation of NSEP treatment is discussed in paragraph 5.1.) TSP Program Office representatives will be available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to receive Emergency provisioning requests. The TSP Program Office cannot react to a request for a provisioning priority from a non-Federal government service user unless sponsored by a Federal agency.

When sponsoring a request for provisioning priority, the sponsor is responsible for verifying with the non-Federal government service user that the request meets the requirements for invocation of NSEP treatment outlined in paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5 of this manual. When NSEP treatment is invoked, the service vendor may contact the TSP Program Office to verify the invocation. The service vendor may also contact the invocation official to verify that the invocation is properly authorized.

8.5 OBTAINING A FEDERAL SPONSOR

In order to obtain a TSP assignment, a non-Federal government service user must identify a Federal agency that is willing to sponsor the request for a TSP assignment. Certain non-Federal government service users have specific sponsors identified:

- State and local government users will request sponsorship from FEMA
- Foreign government users will request sponsorship from either the Department of State or the Department of Defense
- Public and private power utilities may request sponsorship from the Department of Energy
- Service vendors may request sponsorship from the TSP Program Office, or optionally the FCC, for a TSP assignment on a control service or orderwire leased from another service vendor that supports an NSEP function. Additionally, service vendors may request a TSP assignment on any other service (not used as a control service or orderwire) that supports an NSEP function and qualifies under the TSP System. Service vendors may request sponsorship for these services from the TSP Program Office, the FCC, or any other Federal agency with which they have an existing relationship.

Other non-Federal government service users will normally approach a Federal agency with which they have an existing relationship to request sponsorship. Non-Federal government service users should refer to EO 12656 as a guide to identify which Federal agency to approach for sponsorship. If a non-Federal government service user is unable to obtain a sponsor, they may submit their request directly to the TSP Program Office or to the FCC. However, the non-Federal government service user must include documentation of attempts made to obtain a sponsor and reasons given by the sponsor for their refusal.